



The Indianapolis Radio Club Newsletter

Founded 1914

October 2025 Newsletter

Upcoming IRC Meetings and Events:

October 25: W9JP Club POTA Event at Fort Harrison State Park

November 14: Drone presentation by Noy Winzigster, KE9DBN **IN-PERSON**

December 12: Annual Holiday Pitch-In **Dinner at 6:30 pm**

Highlights from the October Meeting:

The meeting was called to order via Zoom at 7:30 pm by IRC President, David Spoelstra, N9KT. There were 32 in attendance. David went over upcoming events for the club. The next club POTA event will be October 25 at Fort Harrison State Park *[details in this newsletter]*. The next club meeting will be in person at the Salvation Army EDS Training Facility on Friday, November 14, where KE9DBN will be talking about drones. The club's annual Holiday Pitch-In will be on Friday, December 12, at the EDS Facility. **The dinner will start around 6:30 pm.** Watch your email for more information. Next month will be the annual election of officers for the club. If you would like to run for an office, send an email to board@indyradioclub.org.

Next David introduced Rick Nicholson, N9UMJ to talk about MOTUS wildlife tracking and Meshtastic LoRa technology. He explained how MOTUS uses tiny trackers to monitor bird, bat, and insect migration patterns across North America and beyond. These trackers operate in the 166 MHz and 433 MHz frequency ranges and communicate with receiving stations at various locations. Rick said there are plans to put up around 200 receiving stations in Indiana. These stations are funded by Indiana Audubon and other

foundations, working with Indiana DNR. Each station costs between \$7000 and \$10,000 to put up. He showed the MOTUS dashboard (<https://motus.org/dashboard/#>) that shows the locations and status of receiving stations. Next Rick segued into LoRa (Low power long Range) and Mesh technologies. He gave examples of how this technology is used in things such as utility meter reading. This technology typically operates on sub-bands in the 915 MHz and 434 MHz ranges utilizing “[Chirp](#)” spread spectrum modulation. Rick showed a video explaining Chirp technology. Meshtastic utilizes LoRa technology to make expandable networks. A good tutorial on getting started with Meshtastic can be found at <https://meshtastic.org/docs/getting-started/>. Meshtastic can interface with “Home Assistant” type applications. It is also used in military applications, such as ATAK, which tracks various assets, such as troops and equipment in active situations. One very important use of ATAK technology is to cut down on “friendly fire” incidents. Rick also touched on some other Mesh platforms, explaining the differences between Meshtastic, MeshCore, and Reticulum. He showed web pages for locating the various Mesh nodes. Rick’s presentation was recorded, and that recording can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2JeqpidLiL8>

Ham Radio News:

OCTOBER 25 IS THE NEXT CLUB POTA EVENT

The next Indianapolis Radio Club Parks on the Air (POTA) operating event will be Saturday, October 25 at Fort Harrison State Park. We will plan to be on the air by noon with 2 HF stations. We will be set up at our normal spot, in front of the Visitor Center. If you have heard of the POTA program, but not been able to take part, this is your chance! Even if you’re not licensed for HF, there will be control operators on site to help get you on the air. Both radios will have 2 positions, one for the operator and one for a logger, in case you need help logging. As usual, we will be using the club’s callsign of W9JP, but if you’re registered with the POTA system, you will get credit for the QSOs you make. So, if you’re new to HF or POTA, or even if you’re an experienced operator, stop by on October 25. We’ll try to make sure the new operators get a chance to get on the air, but with 2 radios, anyone that wants to get on should be able to.

This event is open to everyone, YOU DON’T HAVE TO BE A MEMBER OF THE IRC to attend. As usual, we will have coffee, donuts, and water available for refreshments. Even if you don’t want to operate, just stop on by to chat with everyone.

IRC VE TEST SESSION RESULTS

6 candidates attended the Indianapolis Radio Club sponsored VE testing on 10/11/2025. 4 new hams earned their first license and 2 hams upgraded. Thanks to Ken Bandy KJ9B, Jim Adams KB9JMU, Dave Jarvis N9KZJ, Dave Rogers KB9YYM, Paul Brandenburg KB9MEG, Jim Rinehart K9RU, Jim Brown W0RLD, Steve Tharp K9MD, and Jim Kajder AC9ZL for their help as volunteer examiners!

FREE ON-LINE GENERAL CLASS STARTING SOON

A free, weekly, live, Amateur Radio General Class Licensing course on Zoom will begin on Thursday, October 30, and will run through Thursday, January 8 (9 sessions with no class on Thanksgiving or Christmas). The three-hour sessions will start at 6:30 PM Eastern Time. These are the classes that we have been holding for years sponsored by the Amateur Radio Club of the National Electronics Museum. Participants in the course should have or be studying for the Amateur Radio Technician license. Those wishing to sign up should email roland.anders@comcast.net.

CLUB DUES ARE PAYABLE ANY TIME

Indianapolis Radio Club dues are payable any time and are based on the calendar year. You can check your membership status anytime by going to <https://tinyurl.com/radio-club-members>

The current types of memberships are as follows:

- Individual (\$20 annually) - Individual membership includes all club privileges, which include the rights to hold a club office and full voting privileges. Newly licensed amateurs, defined as licensed one year or less, receive the first year membership at no cost.
- Family (\$30 annually) - Family membership is open to related persons living in the same household. Family members have all Individual member privileges.
- Student (\$10 annually) - Student membership is open to all persons attending school full-time. Student members have all Individual member privileges.
- The club stopped offering “lifetime” memberships in 2019.

The easiest way to pay your club dues is via PayPal or credit card by going to <https://tinyurl.com/irc-dues-payment> and selecting your membership type. The QR Code at the end of this newsletter will take you to that page, as well. Be sure to include your

name and callsign when prompted. If you prefer to pay via check, mail your check, made payable to "Indianapolis Radio Club", to 7405 E. County Road 900 N, Brownsburg, IN 46112. You can also pay via cash or check at any in-person meeting.

ENCOURAGE YOUR REPS TO PASS HOA BILLS

If you're an ARRL member, in the past few days, you have probably seen an email or two regarding sending a message to your Congressional representatives regarding passage of bills H.R.1094 and S.459, the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act. It is very simple to show your support for these bills. Just go to <https://www.arrl.org/HOA> and enter your callsign where prompted. Your information will be automatically entered in the form. Then all you need to do is hit the "SEND" button, and you're done! Your letters will be generated and sent to your representatives on your behalf.

AN HISTORIC LOOK AT IRC MEETING TIMES AND LOCATIONS

As a new continuing feature of our newsletter, I am going to be reviewing the locations of meetings and other historic details of the Indianapolis Radio Club. The information presented in this series was originally compiled by Chuck Crist, W9IH (SK) in 2004, and has been updated as needed.

Year(s)	Meeting locations and other notes
1914-16	Meetings were held in charter members' homes... called themselves "Old Timers". Also called the "Wireless Nuts". First meeting was Oct. 28, 1914
1916	Approx. 45 members HOOSIER SCOUT RADIO CLUB incorporates the Hoosier Radio Club (Meeting 4 times a month!)
1916-18	Members gathered at places like * Old Madison Ave. Branch Library * The OLD Chamber of Commerce Building * Manual Boy's Club * Occasionally at an unknown church

1918	First Permanent Quarters in the old Chamber of Commerce Building
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More to come from the IRC's 111 year history in the next newsletter.

UPCOMING CENTRAL INDIANA TESTING SESSIONS (check with sponsor before planning to attend)

Anderson IN 46016

Sponsor: Anderson Repeater Club

Date: Oct 21 2025

Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: Stephen M. Riley

(765) 425-4627

Email: wa9cwe@arrl.net

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: Madison County EMA EOC

300 N. Delaware St

GPS LOCATION: 119 N. Jackson St

Anderson IN 46016

Website: <http://www.andersonrepeater.club/>

Bloomington IN 47401-5337

Sponsor: Bloomington ARC Inc

Date: Nov 01 2025

Time: 11:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: William F. Wootton

(812) 327-5457

Email: KC9ACL@ARRL.NET

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: First United Church

2420 E 3rd St

Bloomington IN 47401-5337

Greenfield IN 46140-9654

Sponsor: Hancock County ARC

Date: Nov 01 2025

Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: Sean Waltz
(317) 753-8846
Email: waltz1972@msn.com
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Hancock EMA EOC
640 South Franklin St
Greenfield IN 46140-9654
Website: <https://w9atg.org/ve-testing2/>

Indianapolis IN 46254
Sponsor: Indianapolis Radio Club
Date: Nov 08 2025
Time: 12:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)
Contact: James Kajder
(505) 228-3704
Email: testing@indyradioclub.org
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Salvation Army EDS Training Facility
4020 Georgetown Rd
Register or Call ahead
Indianapolis IN 46254

Franklin IN 46131-9733
Sponsor: Mid-State Amateur Radio Club
Date: Nov 15 2025
Time: 9:30 AM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)
Contact: Jacqueline M. Frederick
(317) 432-7095
Email: vetestingmarc@yahoo.com
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Johnson County REMC Building
750 International Dr
Franklin IN 46131-9733
Website: <https://midstatehams.org/>

Anderson IN 46016
Sponsor: Anderson Repeater Club

Date: Nov 18 2025
Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: Stephen M. Riley
(765) 425-4627
Email: wa9cwe@arrl.net
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Madison County EMA EOC
300 N. Delaware St
GPS LOCATION: 119 N. Jackson St
Anderson IN 46016
Website: <http://www.andersonrepeater.club/>

FEEL FREE TO SHARE OUR NEWSLETTER

If you belong to any other radio groups, please feel free to share our newsletter with them. They can also sign up to be on our mailing list by filling out the form available at http://mail.indyradioclub.org/mailman/listinfo/ircnews_indyradioclub.org.

SEND ME YOUR HAM RADIO NEWS

If anyone has any items for the newsletter, please send them to Ken Bandy at kj9b@arrl.net

Signals from the Past:

From the October, 1976 *Amachewer*:

PROGRAM REVIEW: Sept. 24th. The Willard Park tour was supervised by Sgt. Robert Beard. Approx 50 members and guests visited the Indpls Police Radio station at Willard Park and the dispatching department at the City County Bldg. The new system will use 8 of the 11 channels obtained on UHF since space on VHF is no longer available. The key of the new setup is a Walkie-Talkie costing 1600 dollars per unit and one to be issued to each officer. These operate in the 460 MC range at 1 watt, manufactured by G.E. Twenty satellite receivers located throughout the city will pick up these transmissions, direct and relay them to the station at Willard Park where they will be processed, recorded, and repeated as required. The satellites are sensitive receivers located at 100 foot heights, usually on Fire Station locations. Each officer is assigned a three digit number and is called directly, his unit making a beep sound or lighting a red light. All operations are housed in a new addition to the old facility and a new 500 foot antenna completes

the station. In case of emergency an officer can effect a call by pulling out an emergency tab located on the rear of the unit, causing his set to transmit his code signal until the emergency is resolved and will act as a locator homing beacon.

Upcoming Area Radio Events:

- Hoosier Hill Hamfest: November 8 at Lawrence County 4H Fairgrounds, 11261 US Hwy 50 West, Bedford, Contact: Justin Elliott KD9IGT, Phone: 812-896-8002, Email: hamfest@w9qyq.org
- Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo: November 15 & 16 at Allen County War Memorial Coliseum. Go to <https://www.fortwaynehamfest.com/> for more information.
- WVARA Turkeyfest: November 29 at Clay County 4-H Fairgrounds. Go to <https://www.w9uuu.org/hamfest.php> for more information.

2025 Officers:

- President: David Spoelstra, N9KT – president@indyradioclub.org
- Vice Pres.: Jim Brown, WØRLD - vp@indyradioclub.org
- Secretary/Treasurer: Ken Bandy, KJ9B - secretary@indyradioclub.org
- Dir. at large: Jim Rinehart, K9RU – board@indyradioclub.org
- Dir. at large: Dave Miller, K9RTT – board@indyradioclub.org
- Dir. at large: Kyle Bandy, KC9GLR - board@indyradioclub.org
- Dir. at large: Kevin Colbert, KD9MNB - board@indyradioclub.org
- W9JP Trustee: Jay Kraus, W9TC - w9jp.trustee@indyradioclub.org

To Pay Dues or Donate to the club, go to
<https://tinyurl.com/irc-dues-payment>

Or Scan this QR Code with your smartphone:

